

Wildlife Program

Week of June 30 – July 6, 2014

WILDLIFE DIVERSITY

GOAL 1: CONSERVE AND PROTECT NATIVE FISH AND WILDLIFE

Species of Greatest Conservation Need: Biologist Gary Wiles and Natural Resource Scientist Joe Buchanan met with SWAP Coordinator Lynn Helbrecht to discuss final changes to the Species of Greatest Conservation Need (SGCN) list. About a dozen species, including some game species, will receive additional consideration for being added to or removed from the list. These are largely “borderline” species for which valid arguments can be given both for including and excluding the species from the SGCN list.

Communications Plan Review for WNS Preparedness: Section Manager Bruce Thompson and Natural Resource Scientist Joe Buchanan reviewed a draft multi-agency Communications Plan to enhance preventative actions and promote preparedness for possible white nose syndrome (WNS) occurrence in bats in the Pacific Northwest. The draft is being developed by an interagency team representing state wildlife agencies in Washington and Oregon, USDA-Forest Service, Bureau of Land Management, and US Fish and Wildlife Service. There are no detections of WNS within 1,500 miles of the PNW currently, but preparedness is advised because of the relatively rapid detection of WNS from New York to Arkansas in the past 8 years.

Biodiversity Planning: Section Manager Wilkerson participated in the June 20th meeting of the Regional Open Space Strategy Biodiversity Task Force (an effort encompassing King, Snohomish, Pierce and Kitsap Counties). The meeting included refinement of the overview document, and focus on key priority action recommendations. This was the last scheduled meeting of this task force and Wilkerson committed to help think through a more detailed strategy for an action item related to reinitiating an entity akin to the debunk Biodiversity Council.

Land Conservation: Section Manager Wilkerson attended the Habitat and Recreation Lands Coordinating Forum on June 19th along with Lands Division Manager Sprague. Conversation included an update on the Public Lands Inventory (which will be spatially available on-line by January), discussion of on-going efforts in the legislature related to land conservation, presentation of DFW’s contracted report on the Economics of WDFW Lands in Okanogan County, and a discussion of each state agency’s policies pertaining to disposal of properties that are not meeting their stated goals, needs or objectives.

Sage Grouse – Section Managers Wilkerson and Becker attended a meeting on June 26th in Ellensburg with the USFWS and BLM, co-lead by RD Pozzanghera and also attended by DFW staff Schroeder and Atamian regarding the status and coordination of the BLM Resource Management Plan generally and specifically as it pertains to grouse. With DFW as a cooperating agency, we developed a timeline and strategy to review the BLM alternatives that aligns with the BLM’s timeline for public review.

Pygmy Rabbit Recovery: In the last two weeks, the crew (Technician Duvuvuei, PhD student DeMay, Interns Jones, Baker, and McDonald) have been very busy with seven capture/release days; four at Sagebrush Flats (SBF), two at Dormaier, and one at Beezley Hills. On June 25 we trapped both enclosures at SBF. We trapped a total of 94 rabbits: 70 new kits, 5 recap kits, 19 adults (12 not previously documented adults). All new kits (except one that escaped back into breeding enclosure) were released to the wild. The four recap kits from the enclosure scheduled to be emptied this fall (for vegetation rehab) were taken to the breeding enclosure at Beezley Hills. Four adult males that were no longer currently reproductively active were released to the wild (due to emptying the enclosure this fall) and the remainder of the rabbits were released back into their respective enclosures. On June 30 and July 3 we trapped at Dormaier. A total of 41 rabbits were captured: 35 new kits, 1 recap kit, 5 adults (4 recaps and 1 previously undocumented). All new kits were released to the wild; the recap kits and adults were returned to the breeding enclosure. On July 2 and 3 we trapped again at SBF (due to the volume of kits remaining after the previous weeks efforts). A total of 72 rabbits were processed: 52 new kits, 1 recap kit, and 19 adults (combination of recap and undocumented). All new kits and 1 adult male were released to the wild, 1 recap kit was take to Beezley Hills (due to the scheduled veg rehab), and the remainder of the rabbits were released back into the breeding enclosures. This brings the 2014 total for kits to 570; five hundred thirteen of these have been released to the wild. In addition we have trapped and translocated four weasels during these last two weeks.

Interagency Grizzly Bear Committee Meeting: Division Manager Eric Gardner attended an Interagency Grizzly Bear Meeting (IGBC) in the North Cascades. During the meeting, the National Park Service (NPS) stated that they hope to be able to make a formal announcement soon regarding potential plans to develop an Environmental Impact Statement (EIS) evaluating recovery options for grizzly bears in the North Cascades. WDFW expressed a desire to participate in the process while at the same time communicated 3 specific challenges that will need to be addressed. One of the issues has to do with a state statute that provides a legal framework under which WDFW is obligated to work. RCW 77.12.035 Protection of grizzly bears -- Limitation on transplantation or introduction -- Negotiations with federal and state agencies (see below) sets some expectations for State involvement and also speaks to the need to manage using only bears native to Washington. Secondly, it is imperative that efforts to develop a grizzly bear EIS and the implementation of any recovery actions not fail due to public concerns over other large carnivore management in the state, nor that they negatively impact our wolf recovery program. In addition, WDFW's ability to engage will require financial assistance from the NPS to allow for staff participation in the process, which is expected to take at least 3 years to complete if initiated.

REGION 1

GOAL 1: CONSERVE AND PROTECT NATIVE FISH AND WILDLIFE

Wildlife Management

Common Loon Surveys: Assistant District Wildlife Biologist Annemarie Prince and a volunteer surveyed six lakes this week for common loons. Two lakes had adults plus chicks, one lake had an incubating pair, one lake had two adults, and two lakes did not have any loons present.



Adult common loon with juvenile



Common loon on nest

Golden Eagle Survey: Biologists Atamian and Lowe visited the nest in the Fergi-Welsh territory. One juvenile eagle (7.5 weeks old) was in the nest and an adult was observed leaving the nest and flying in the area.



7.5 week old Golden Eagle chick at Fergi-Welsh Creek Territory.

Regional Conservation Partnership Program (RCPP): Biologist Lewis attended a planning meeting that was held to develop a project proposal under the new Natural Resource Conservation Service (NRCS) program. The new program focuses on developing project focus areas to help streamline the planning process and funding into important areas that need more conservation on the ground. The proposal for the area will focus on the Palouse Basin including Washington and Idaho. The meeting was attended by Lewis (DFW); Palouse, Whitman, Palouse-Rock Lake, and Latah Conservation Districts; the Palouse Land Trust; and NRCS.

Depredation Investigation: Specialist Shepherd, Enforcement Officer Kirsch, and a county deputy investigated an alleged wolf killed calf near Valley and determined it was not a predator attack.

Wildlife Areas



Swanson Lakes Wildlife Area: As Finch walked around the south end of Z-lake he also noticed a campfire pit that someone had recently used and packed in their own firewood. The local fire districts placed their “No Burning Ban” in effect on June 19th and less than a week ago this fire pit was not in that location. Finch dismantled the fire pit and posted a No Open Campfire sign for now.

Recent campfire pit found at Z-lake that was not in place less than 1 week ago- photo by Finch

along WDFW’s property. As Finch approached the herd from the south, the cattle spooked, broke through WDFW’s fence and are now on WDFW’s property east of Telford Rd. This week Asst. Manager Finch and Manager Anderson will try to find the owners and relocate the herd.

Finch also noticed approximately 40 head of cattle walking up Telford Rd North



American White Pelican preparing to land at Z-lake with larger group- photo by Mike Finch

SCWA Habitat Improvement Project: Sherman Creek WLA staff monitored the Canal and Rail Units throughout the week for smoke, following up last week’s prescribed burn treatments in each unit. Last week’s mop-up and ¾ inch of rain over the weekend was effective as no new smokes were detected this week.

WBLS Fuel Reduction: Wildlife Area Assistant Manager Daro Palmer and Natural Resource Technician Jerry “Chris” Christensen met with DNR Forester Rob Lionberger at West Branch Little Spokane WLA to visit priority areas for fuel reduction treatments and discussion scenarios. Lionberger will be producing a map and cost analysis for the proposed treatments to be used in the next step of planning.

Private Lands/Access

Access Maintenance: Worked general maintenance at Rock, Fan, Fishtrap, Deer, Waitts, Liberty, Newman, Williams, Clear, West Medical, and Jump off Joe, Silver, Diamond, Eloika, Sacheen, and Davis, Loon and Badger Lake access sites.



Left: Scott Young mowing and weed trimming at Williams Lake- photo by Scott Young

Right: Scott Young finding more than expecting at Clear Lake- photo by Scott Young



GOAL 3: PROMOTE A HEALTHY ECONOMY, PROTECT COMMUNITY CHARACTER, MAINTAIN AN OVERALL HIGH QUALITY OF LIFE, AND DELIVER HIGH-QUALITY CUSTOMER SERVICE

Wildlife Management

National Wild Pheasant Technical Committee Meeting: Supervisor McCanna updated the preliminary agenda, completed the meeting announcement and meeting registration. All three were approved by Nate Pamplin and sent out to twenty three different states. McCanna also lined up two more presentations for the meeting with Don Larsen (WDFW) and Mel Asher from BFI Native Seeds.

Hazing Deer near Deer Park, Washington: Conflict Specialist Bennett hazed deer out of an alfalfa field at night with a paintball gun and spotlight. The deer seem to enter the irrigated alfalfa just after sunset from the small acre parcels that surround the field.

Elk Damage: Conflict Specialist Rasley continues to meet with numerous farmers regarding elk damage in their pea fields throughout three counties.

Hazing Elk: Wildlife Conflict Technician Scott Bendixen met with a landowner in South Stevens County concerned about the 75 elk grazing in his hay fields each night. Bendixen made several trips to the area to haze the elk from the fields.



Elk feeding in hay field in south Stevens County

REGION 2

GOAL 1: CONSERVE AND PROTECT NATIVE FISH AND WILDIFE

Wildlife Management

Golden Eagle Research: Biologist Fitkin assisted Research Scientist Watson and volunteer climber Bloxton with the capture and radio-marking of an almost fledged golden eagle chick as part of an ongoing statewide golden eagle ecology research effort. The new study subject is now sporting a solar satellite/GPS transmitter that will provide detailed data of the bird's movements for up to 8 years despite weighing little more than 1% of the eagle's body weight.



Left: Almost fledged golden eagle chick
Photo – Scott Fitkin



Right: Biologist Watson and new study subject
Photo – WDFW



*Avalanche debris, Panther Creek.
Photo – Scott Fitkin*

Wolverine Research: Biologist Fitkin and USFS staff attempted to recover a wolverine collar initially deployed on young male Hobbes that has been stationary since mid-winter. The collar is located in a remote drainage at the toe of an avalanche chute suggesting the animal may have been caught in a slide or perhaps shed his collar in that location. Unfortunately, despite a 12 hour round-trip of mostly off-trail hiking we were not able to reach the site in the day allotted and could not get a VHF signal from about 3 miles away suggesting the collar is still covered with avalanche debris. As schedules allow, we will make another attempt with an overnight contingency.

Great Gray Owls: Biologist Heinlen received an update from a local citizen who is monitoring a nesting pair of Great Gray Owls. Unfortunately the nest failed to produce chicks this year.

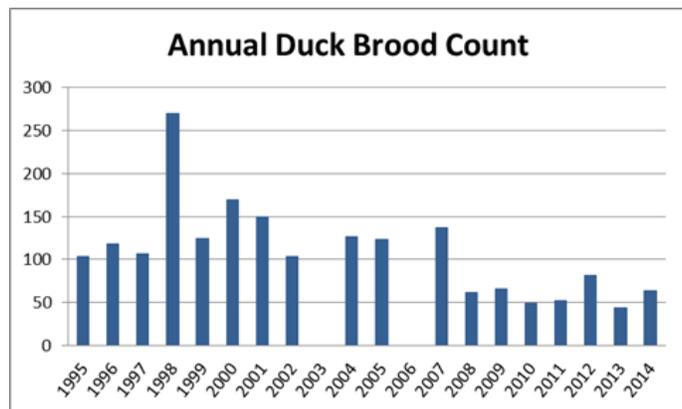


*Great Gray Owls
Photo – Scott Fitkin*

GOAL 2: PROVIDE SUSTAINABLE FISHING, HUNTING AND OTHER WILDLIFE-RELATED RECREATIONAL AND COMMERCIAL EXPERIENCES

Wildlife Management

Waterfowl Brood Counts: Biologists Finger, O. Duvuvuei, and E. Duvuvuei finished brood routes for District 5. Sixty-four broods were counted throughout the district. Preliminary results indicate that this year’s brood counts are similar to the recent average (2007-2013) but are down compared to brood counts throughout the 1990’s and early 2000’s.



GOAL 3: PROMOTE A HEALTHY ECONOMY, PROTECT COMMUNITY CHARACTER, MAINTAIN AN OVERALL HIGH QUALITY OF LIFE, AND DELIVER HIGH-QUALITY CUSTOMER SERVICE

Wildlife Areas

Sinlahekin 75th Anniversary Summer Series: This past weekend was the second weekend of a summer-long series of events celebrating the 75th Anniversary of the Sinlahekin Wildlife Area. This weekend’s events included: butterfly field trips with butterfly expert Caitlin LaBar,

grassland ecology talk/field trip with ecologist and author Don Gayton, insects of the Sinlahekin with Wenatchee Valley College Biologist Bob Gillespie, deer and moose of the Sinlahekin seminar with WDFW biologist Woody Meyers, damselfly and dragonfly workshop/field trip with zoologist and author Dennis Paulson, habitat restoration workshop with WDFW ecologist Kurt Merg and workshop covering the biology, behavior and identification of bats with WDFW biologist Ella Rowan. The events were attended relatively well with those in attendance receiving valuable information regarding each area of interest (see pictures below). The series will continue the weekend of July 26th. Photos by Justin Haug.



Caitlin LaBar displays a fritillary butterfly to those attending the butterfly field trip near the Sinlahekin headquarters



WDFW biologist Ella Rowan educates a group of girls from Summerland, B.C. about bat biology.

REGION 3

GOAL 1: CONSERVE AND PROTECT NATIVE FISH AND WILDLIFE

Wildlife Areas

Wenas Wildlife Area: Manager Confer Morris toured the Wenas Wildlife Area with District Biologist Bernatowicz and Research Biologist Schroeder to look at habitat quality for sage grouse. RB Schroeder felt that the WLA had good habitat on the north end, particularly in association with the CRP fields.

Sunnyside Wildlife Area: NRT 2 Medina replaced 50' of irrigation mainline on the entrance food plot, used the backhoe to clean out culverts at the Horseshoe Lake outlet, cleaned the water tank in the pheasant rearing pen and topped off the feeder, turned on the water at the entrance food plot, and set up the new tool box in the shop.

Assistant Manager Sak received another batch of pheasant chicks from the Yakima Valley pheasants forever chapter to raise on the wildlife area.

A second batch of pheasant chicks being reared at the Sunnyside HQ Unit



Wildlife Management

Mourning Doves: Capture and banding of doves in District 4 continued with 18 new birds banded. This brings the total number of birds banded in two days of trapping to 77. The ratio of newly captured adult (“after hatch year”) to juvenile (“hatch year”) birds is 1:2. Two days of trapping are planned for the coming week. Returned bands provide valuable information about dove movements and age structure. With the recent cessation of the USFWS coo count surveys, band recovery is the only method available to track dove populations in Washington.

Waterfowl: Biologist Gregory completed the annual survey route for duck broods along the Potholes canal. Thirteen broods were observed, twelve of which were mallards. This is almost double the number observed last year when only seven broods were counted along the 32 mile route. The average number of broods counted since 2005 is 14.



A family of mallards in the Potholes Canal, Franklin County WA. Photo: S. Gregory

Golden Eagles: Biologist Bernatowicz surveyed the last priority 1 site (Mc Daniel canyon) where productivity was needed. The site produced two young.

Sage Grouse Management on Wildlife Areas: Biologist Bernatowicz toured the Wenas Wildlife area with Manger Confer-Morris and Researcher Schroeder. There appears to be adequate habitat for sage grouse and more in depth look will be conducted in August.

Canyon Bighorn Sheep: Biologist Bernatowicz received a call from a landowner in the Yakima River Canyon who found a bighorn lamb in his pasture with cattle. The lamb was very weak. A few calls were made and it was determined the best solution was to euthanize and send to WSU for testing. Officer Watts assisted Biologist Bernatowicz in obtaining the lamb, which had symptoms of severe pneumonia.

GOAL 2: PROVIDE SUSTAINABLE FISHING, HUNTING AND OTHER WILDLIFE-RELATED RECREATIONAL AND COMMERCIAL EXPERIENCES

Wildlife Areas

Colockum Improvements: Manager Lopushinsky and Assistant Manager Hagan met with Doug Keuhn and Richard Tveten in Ellensburg to go over the FPA submitted to DNR for the Colockum hazard tree project. We will be flagging unit boundaries and marking hazard trees next week. Colockum staff spent two days with Katherine Kelly, DFW archaeologist this week. Projects worked on included surveying a portion of the burned north boundary fence to be rebuilt, surveying locations for gate and readerboard installation, and inspection of Tekison Cave.



WDFW archaeologist Katherine Kelly surveying site for gate installation, Colockum Wildlife Area.

LT Murray Wildlife Area: Tech Schnebly completed end of growing season grazing monitoring in Whiskey Jim pasture. Lack of precipitation has slowed summer plant production and growth.

Wenas Wildlife Area: Manager Confer Morris participated in a conference call with RPM McCorquodale and Olympia Land's staff to discuss funding for improving safety at two target shooting sites on the Wenas Wildlife Area.

Oak Creek Wildlife Area: Manager Huffman reviewed the 3 quotes received from Vendors for the re-bid of thinning work. The same contractor was the low bid again and information was entered into Novatus to start the contract process. Manager Huffman reviewed the latest draft of the Road Management Strategy being developed for wildlife area roads and attended a conference call with Olympia and regional staff to review and provide updates. The document is looking better and some good comments were incorporated during the conference call.

Wildlife Management

Deer and Elk Conflict: Wildlife Conflict Specialist Hand monitored elk distribution and movements in Elk Areas 3721 & 3722. Steady numbers of elk continue to invade winter wheat fields on Hanford's southern border, mostly occurring just after sunset. Wildlife Conflict Specialist Hand monitored harvest of DPP permits in Elk Area 3721. One spike bull elk was reported harvested for the week. The harvest quota of 30 bull elk for the summer bull DPP permit season has been met. This is the first time that this quota has ever been achieved. Wildlife Conflict Specialist Hand coordinated with landowners and hunt managers on elk locations to pressure them away from valuable crops.

New Access Technician: Biologist Stutzman brought on Access Tech. Kaelber this week. Stutzman and Kaelber toured Franklin County and discussed regional Access priorities for the year including changes to the corn stubble program, new access opportunities, and posting back boundaries of existing sites. Kaelber will also be assisting District Biologist Gregory with trapping and survey efforts.

District 8 Team Meeting: Stutzman attended the District 8 team meeting in Ellensburg. The team discussed a number of topics relevant to private lands notably Sage Grouse Initiative, Farm Bill easement opportunities and the status of CRP fields on private land adjacent to WDFW wildlife areas. While in Ellensburg, Stutzman also met with Conflict Specialist Steve Wetzel about expanding our access sites in Kittitas County. Wetzel and Stutzman discussed the different programs and how they can work for landowners. The next step is to spend a day in the field together to make contact with potential landowners.

GOAL 3: PROMOTE A HEALTHY ECONOMY, PROTECT COMMUNITY CHARACTER, MAINTAIN AN OVERALL HIGH QUALITY OF LIFE, AND DELIVER HIGH-QUALITY CUSTOMER SERVICE

Wildlife Areas

LT Murray Wildlife Area: Manager Winegeart and Real Estate Manager Hendrix tried to expedite a permit for an LDS cart trekking group on the LT Murray. The event organizers did not realize they needed a permit for their 120-person event, which was scheduled to occur July 9th. In the end, the group decided to limit their use to USFS lands, where they did have a permit. Due to the increasing frequency of these events, Winegeart and Hendrix will draft a permitting guideline packet for the church to share with all local stakes, and thereby avoid this last minute scramble.

Oak Creek Wildlife Area: Manager Huffman reviewed the SEPA checklist and maps for the Oak Creek Aquatic Restoration Project and prepared them for submission. Manager Huffman reviewed the 3 quotes received from Vendors for the re-bid of thinning work. The same contractor was the low bid again and information was entered into Novatus to start the contract process.

Wildlife Management

District 4 Wildlife Conflict: Wildlife Conflict Specialist Hand updated the damage permit issuance and harvest reporting spreadsheet on SharePoint. Wildlife Conflict Specialist Hand spent a considerable amount of time contacting landowners in elk area 3721 to suspend their DPP permits as the harvest quota for this elk area has been reached. He conducted one late night spotlight patrol on Rattlesnake Mountain. Hot dry weather conditions is making access and hazing techniques difficult to implement for fear of starting wildfires. Wildlife Conflict Specialist Hand met with Crop Adjuster Steve VanTassel to discuss new protocol coming from Olympia HQ concerning when his services for crop damage assessments are initiated.

District 8 Wildlife Conflict: Specialist Wetzel contacted range rider Johnson to discuss wolf data issues and a recent dissemination of new wolf location data for the Teanaway. Specialist Wetzel contacted range riders Brunson, Ward, and Holcomb for contract and payments from June.

GOAL 4: BUILD AN EFFECTIVE AND EFFICIENT ORGANIZATION BY SUPPORTING OUR WORKFORCE, IMPROVING BUSINESS PROCESSES, AND INVESTING IN TECHNOLOGY

Wildlife Areas

Oak Creek Wildlife Area: After receiving approval from Olympia to hire a forester for the wildlife area Manager Huffman began working on the recruitment process.

Wenas Wildlife Area: Manager Confer Morris submitted the BPA FY15 contract into Novatus.

LT Murray Wildlife Area: Tech Hill attended First Aid/CPR/AED training at the Ellensburg office.

REGION 4

GOAL 1: CONSERVE AND PROTECT NATIVE FISH AND WILDLIFE

Wildlife Management



Loon Pair with Chick

present. The other still shows birds incubating one egg as observed per an egg turn. Anderson received note that two chicks are present on the Howard Hanson Reservoir from Tacoma Water staff. Anderson communicated with Seattle Public Utility biologists to discuss status of Chester Morse Reservoir loons. One pair has failed, the other two have unknown status but one perhaps may be on eggs. Further survey is needed in collaboration with partners to determine productivity District-wide.

Loon Habitat at Hozomeen Lake



Common Loon Monitoring: Biologist DeBruyn hiked into Hozomeen Lake in North Cascades National Park to do the late season loon check. WDFW cooperates with the National Park Service to visit the site at least twice a year to monitor breeding activity. There were two adult loons on the lake and a young downy chick accompanying them. The chick was being fed copious quantities of what appeared to be baby trout and riding on the mother's back when it was full. Biologist Anderson visited two area lakes that have loon breeding activity. One lake showed adults with one 10 day old chick still

Species of Greatest Conservation Needs (SGSN)/Cormorant Survey: Assistant District Biologist Cyra assisted District Biologist Milner and Emeritus Retired District Biologist Miller with a marine survey in the San Juan Islands. Primary goals were to survey known natural structure Pelagic Cormorant colonies for occupancy. Of the three known sites visited, only one contained cormorants. This survey was performed to obtain information on natural colony use



prior to tentatively planned artificial colony dissuasion next season at the Washington State Ferry terminal in Anacortes. In addition, traditional breeding sites of Black Oystercatcher's were surveyed. No banded individuals were observed, but several pairs had well camouflaged mobile downy young.

Adult Black Oystercatcher with downy young chick.

Low Elevation Pika and Mountain Goat Surveys: Assistant District Biologist Cyra continued work on the Pika presence surveys in the Stillaguamish Valley. No surveys were performed in this time period due to the impending holiday, but activity continued with data analysis and presentation. Cyra began preparations for this year's mountain goat surveys in the north central Cascades. Safety equipment, flight following, data and software needs, survey tracking requirements were all investigated or procured.

East/West Bear Project: Biologist Smith assisted Bear and Cougar Specialist Beausoleil and Carnivore Specialist Maletzke with bear captures and collaring. A total of 19 bears (including enforcement captures) were collared on the Westside over two 10 day sessions. This was a very successful season for the project, equaling the number of bears marked last year.

Osprey Nest Management: Biologist Anderson received a number of calls requesting information and direction on management consideration for active and inactive osprey nests on cell towers.

Bald Eagle Assistance: Biologist Anderson collaborated with Wildlife Research Scientist Watson and Biologist Milner to provide a response regarding territorial eagle activity and mortality events at Seward Park. Washington Audubon contacted Anderson requesting testing and information. Anderson relayed it was typical territorial behavior (and sounds as if a new nest is out there!). Anderson provided second biological opinions to back-up outreach of Audubon to inquiring public so that a uniform front of agreement is shown.

Human-Wildlife Coexistence – Urban Raccoons: Biologist Anderson provided an interview to KIRO regarding urban raccoon ecology. Anderson relayed basic differences in urban raccoon ecology vs. more wild-land individuals. Management and conflict reduction techniques were outlined, as well as discussion of increased urban crowd and refuse activity during our current holiday summer season. Currently female raccoons are beginning to move their two-month or so kits from the nursery dens to other day dens. They can be more active now. Human intrusion can complicate these movements. Note- momma raccoons are cute but VERY defensive of their young, particularly if cornered. Do your part – leave them be and clean up attractants so they don't develop bad behaviors from our own actions such as easily accessible garbage. Also, with some acute novel activities happening in neighborhoods like block parties and fireworks – be considerate to all breeding wildlife and keep a distance to known nest and den areas when possible. This is better for us two-legged's and better for the wildlife in your area. Most of the WDFW relayed info was correct – outside of Animal Control involvement mentioned by the

reporter. Please refer injured and orphaned wildlife to a wildlife rehabilitator and nuisance wildlife to a state-licensed Wildlife Control Operator. The article can be found here and also ran on the radio:

<http://mynorthwest.com/11/2557073/Rampant-Rascals>.

*Raccoon at an urban creek in Region 4.
(Photo by Kim Chandler)*



Pre-fledge Urban Peregrine Falcon Needs: Biologist Anderson received calls and emails regarding more pre-fledge peregrines in Seattle. Volunteers, WDFW and State licensed Wildlife Rehabilitators are working together to assess the health of birds, release or other options. Thus far, one bird has gone into falconry, one has been released and is being monitored for parental neglect, and another is to be determined.

San Juan Islands Species of Greatest Conservation Need: Biologist Milner collaborated with the San Juan County Land Bank Steward on a press release he prepared regarding the recent find of a sharp-tailed snake on San Juan Island.

<http://www.islandguardian.com/archives/00005392.html>. The article immediately resulted in a potential sighting on Lopez Island from a citizen who had seen the article. That person will be putting out cover boards to help with our surveys. Milner hopes to launch an island-wide citizen science project looking for the snakes this fall.

Biologists Milner and Cyra conducted a boat survey looking for Black Oystercatcher chicks in the San Juan Islands. Every year we try to assess breeding success at known territories. Although this isn't a comprehensive survey, it allows us to keep informed about the presence of the birds in the area. Twelve sites were surveyed, with chicks seen at two of them.

Wildlife Areas

Skagit Forks District Review Team Meeting: The Skagit District Review Team, consisting of Projects Coordinator Brokaw, WLA Manager Rotton, Wildlife Biologist Danilson, Habitat Engineer Barnard, Lands Agent Iris, Fish Biologist Barkdull and Habitat Biologist Warriner met to discuss and get updated on a restoration project proposed at the WDFW Skagit Forks/Cottonwood

Island property. Skagit Conservation District is a partner in the project, which involves investigating the feasibility of reconnecting the Skagit River to a relic side channel and forested wetland.

WDFW staff from different disciplines gathered to review and discuss salmon restoration project proposals



Leque Island Alternatives Analysis and Design Project: Ducks Unlimited and WDFW submitted a quarterly progress report to one of the agencies providing grant funds for the project. To date, the project has met all of the deliverables in the timeline proposed in the grant contract. The next major project milestone is completion of the hydrodynamic modeling report, which is due at the end of August.

Lake Terrell Beaver Dam: Manager Kessler checked the Lake Terrell dam for a beaver dam. Beavers have started to plug up the new dam, and stop water flows in Terrell Creek. Water is released into Terrell Creek from the Lake Terrell dam to keep the creek charged for salmon survival.

Nooksack Unit Noxious Weed Control: Natural Resource Tech Deyo sprayed herbicides for noxious poisonous hemlock weed control on the Nooksack Unit.

GOAL 2: PROVIDE SUSTAINABLE FISHING, HUNTING AND OTHER WILDLIFE-RELATED RECREATIONAL AND COMMERCIAL EXPERIENCES

Wildlife Management

GMU 418 and Elk Area 4941 Nooksack Bull Elk Special Permit Hunt Coordination: Biologist Caldwell and Danilson coordinated meetings and contact information between private landowners and successful permit applicants. A coordination meeting was established for Saturday, August 9th, 2014 at the La Conner field office.

Ebey Island Acquisition: Biologists Milner worked on PowerPoint slides to improve the RCO presentation for Ebey Island and met with Biologist Bails to put a new presentation together and review the old narrative in order to improve the final project. Milner also reviewed the revised narrative that will go to the evaluation committee.

Olympic National Park Goat EIS:

Biologist Milner attended a meeting hosted by Olympic National Park to outline the Park's process for scoping decisions related to mountain goats within the Park.

Wildlife Areas



Skagit Wildlife Area's Agricultural Enhancement Program - Island Unit: Natural Resource Technician Cosgrove monitored Fireman's and Barn fields raising river levels have begun to sub-irrigate the area delaying the mowing and planting efforts on this portion of the Island. Wildlife Area staff will coordinate with volunteers for side dressing corn and treating crops once the river conditions improve for ferry operations.

Barley, corn and fava bean planting on the Island Unit.

Skagit Wildlife Area's Agricultural Enhancement Program - Samish Unit: Share crop lease agreement was completed and the Lessee began disking and field prep for planting of oats on portions of the Samish Unit. The Lessee will also be cutting hay in some areas to assist with control of weeds and improvement of the grass community. Staff Cosgrove mowed and sprayed weeds on the site this week. Staff performed spot treatment weeds on DeBay's Slough, Fir Island Farms, Jensen Access, and Headquarters Units.

Fir Island Farm Monitoring and Adaptive Management Plan: Projects Coordinator Brokaw provided edits and updated the latest version of this document, which describes how the Fir Island Farm Estuary Restoration Project will be monitored before and after project implementation. It also describes actions that WDFW will take based on monitoring results, to help the project function as effectively as possible.

Island Unit Tide-gate Repair: Projects Coordinator Brokaw met with Wildlife Area Manager Rotton to get information on a leaking tide-gate at the Island Unit in the Skagit Wildlife Area. They discussed next steps needed to design a repair, secure necessary permits, and implement the project.

Lake Terrell Closed Area Signs: Natural Resource Tech Deyo removed the Closed Area signs on Lake Terrell. During the Spring, the island areas of Lake Terrell are closed to the public to protect nesting waterfowl. The signs are removed on July 1, and the public can then enter those areas to fish.

Private Lands/Access Management

Waterfowl Quality Hunt Program: Biologist Caldwell entered all 2014-2015 reservation hunting sites and their access dates/times into the Private Lands Access Website. Caldwell contacted Section Manager Calkins to discuss reservation, register, and feel free to hunt survey options in Region 4. Survey requirements and rules were discussed for each hunt type. From this discussion, options were developed to implement and gather data on specific elements of the program that are required. Efforts will be made in 2014 to accurately collect specified data for each hunt type applied in Region 4.

Private Lands Management: Technician Otto applied herbicide to seven acres of noxious weeds at the Swan Road unit.

Migratory Bird Habitat Enhancement Project Proposal: Technician Otto picked up, delivered and applied barley to a waterfowl quality hunt site in Whatcom County.

GOAL 3: PROMOTE A HEALTHY ECONOMY, PROTECT COMMUNITY CHARACTER, MAINTAIN AN OVERALL HIGH QUALITY OF LIFE, AND DELIVER HIGH-QUALITY CUSTOMER SERVICE

Wildlife Management

Seattle Audubon Nature Camp: Biologist Anderson provided outreach to 50 6-11 year old children participating in the summer-long Seattle Audubon Nature Camp. Anderson went through basic age-appropriate mammal identification from local herbivores, omnivores and top carnivores found in western Washington, emphasizing “urban wildlife”. Children are on the look-out for these animals with binoculars in tow, keeping a distance and working with their family to learn and respect them. They had opportunity to see and touch pelts during the presentation.

Private Lands/Access Management

Waterfowl Quality Hunt Reservation Sites: Biologist Caldwell contacted all private landowners that expressed interest in the Reservation Hunt option within the Quality Hunt Program. Dates and times were clarified to allow hunting on these lands throughout the 2014-2015 waterfowl season.

Novatus Contract Quality Assurance: Biologist Caldwell contacted contract staff to insure that new contracts data entry was performed correctly. Total acreage corrections were made and all contracts are currently being updated. Also, Biologist Caldwell and Deputy Contract Officer Thompson worked on Novatus contract management for upcoming contracts. Various workflow and correction factors were identified and solved.

Nooksack Bull Elk Tag: Biologist Danilson worked with Biologist Caldwell to get a letter mailed to Nooksack bull elk tag holders announcing the hunter-landowner coordination meeting that hunters must attend if they wish to hunt Sierra-Pacific Industries (SPI) private timber land. WDFW staff continues to work closely with SPI staff and hunters that draw permits for this hunt to ensure that this quality bull elk hunts does not become a “fee access” situation, where hunters must pay to gain access. The meeting will take place on Saturday August 9th.

Conference Calls: Biologist Anderson conferenced with University of Washington and PAWS Wildlife Rehabilitation, separately, to discuss ongoing projects and future efforts.

Wildlife Areas

Skagit Headquarters: Manager Rotton coordinated with CAMP Construction Project Coordinator Dave Miller about the electrical service for the Wiley pump station and met with the District team to discuss the Skagit Forks proposal for salmon recovery projects.

Manager Rotton continues to work on a boundary line clarification for the Bald Eagle Natural Area property with Lands Agent Kye Iris and District Biologist, Chris Danilson.

Manager Rotton monitored agricultural leases and planting areas on the Samish, Leque Island, South Padilla Bay, and Cottonwood Island Units. Agricultural leases for Samish and Cottonwood Island Unit are being processed.

Leque Island: Natural Resource Specialist Greg Meis coordinated with share crop farmer regarding the additional barley planting on the site scheduled to occur next week.

Whatcom Wildlife Area Management Plan Update: Manager Kessler received comments from District team members on the biennial update to the Whatcom Wildlife Area Management Plan. Those comments will be incorporated into the plan, and the final edit will then be submitted to Olympia.

Hunter Education and Volunteer Coordination: Steven Dazey presented volunteer hunter education instructor Joe Bee his 25 years of service certificate and pin. Dr. Bee has been a valued



Hunter Education Coordinator Dazey Presenting a 25 year service certificate to Volunteer Dr. Joe Bee

volunteer for the previous 25 years. He was instrumental in setting up with Mik Mikitik a program where by selected optometrists in Washington would provide a free eye exam to anyone who presented a hunting license. Dr. Bee stays very active and not only acts as a chief instructor for hunter education teams that he runs but also actively assists three other teams in the Skagit County area. Dr. Bee was a presenter at the state wide in service training "IST" held in Yakima in 2012. Congratulations to Dr. Joe Bee and big thanks for all that he does for the hunter education division of Fish and Wildlife.

Dazey worked with hunter education instructors in South King County to find additional venues for hunter education classes. With the increase in instructors in the south county area additional venues will enable the new instructors to increase the availability of classes offered in that area.

Dazey continues to work with Master Hunter applicants and Renewals to find service opportunities that benefit the Department of Fish and Wildlife. Projects currently being promoted include elk fencing repair along I-90, Pygmy Rabbit restoration in the Ephrata area, bird house construction and repair for region 4 biologist Anderson, review and archiving of mountain goat files for biologist Milner, and GPS mapping of foot bridges in the Snoqualmie Wildlife area. Volunteer Coordinator Dazey worked to recruit volunteers to man a hunter education and volunteer awareness booth at the Mill Creek fair coming up July 19 and 20. The booth will provide information and awareness of the hunter education program, the need for hunter education instructors, and the need for volunteers to assist the department in other projects.

Wildlife Conflicts: Biologist Danilson and Technician Cogdal continued to address an elk damage situation in the Day Creek area of Skagit County by communicating with a volunteer master hunt coordinator, the landowner and the master hunters themselves to implement a hazing plan to deter elk from the property. At this point, nearly a dozen volunteers have stepped forward to assist by hazing elk during the evening and morning hours and documenting their hazing activities, elk presence/response, and evidence of elk activity at the site. This effort is being supplemented by Cogdal visiting the site during the morning "shifts" that no volunteers have signed up for.

Danilson made contact with each of the three landowners that Wildlife Conflicts staff developed fencing agreements with earlier in the year. A few issues need to be addressed to ensure that the terms of the agreements between WDFW and these landowners are being met. To address this, Danilson and Cogdal met with one of the landowner on their property to get an update on progress and try to develop a plan to hasten implementation. At another site, Cogdal inventoried

trees that the landowner would like to cut or trim back prior to installing the fence. These trees are on a property boundary in common with WDFW, so Danilson is engaged in discussions with various WDFW staff to find a pathway to move this forward. In making contact with the third landowner to make a minor contract change, Danilson learned that the landowner is requesting a change in the scope of the contract due to a change in land practices.

Danilson worked with contracts staff to resolve issues related to fencing contracts in Skagit County. This included addressing issues associated with information in Novatus, contacting landowners, and conducting site visits.

GOAL 4: SUPPORTING OUR WORKFORCE, IMPROVING BUSINESS PROCESSES, AND INVESTING IN TECHNOLOGY

Wildlife Management

Technician Staff: Technician Otto will paint survey boxes, contacting non-compliant spring bear hunters and assisting Biologist Caldwell with special permit hunt duties this week.

Evaluations: Supervisors worked on staff evaluations and expectations, and dealt with staff issues.

District 14 Wildlife Conflicts Staff Recruitment: Rob Cogdal joined District 14 on July 1st as the new seasonal Wildlife Conflict Technician position. Rob is a local Skagit Valley resident and has completed his two year degree in Environmental Conservation at Skagit Valley College. The focus of Rob's work will be on elk-related conflicts in the Skagit River Valley.

Biologist Danilson spent the better part of the week finalizing the paperwork necessary to hire Rob, provide basic training, address equipment and vehicle needs, and provide in-office and field orientation.

Radio Communications: Assistant District Biologist Cyra continued to provide radio support to Program staff.

Software Issues: Assistant District Biologist Cyra worked on resolving issues related to aerial photo use in Terrain Navigator Pro for potential aerial tracking use in upcoming mountain goat surveys.

Volunteer Management: Biologist Anderson has been in coordination and contact with Woodland Park Zoo Citizen Breeding Amphibian Monitoring Project volunteers as well as Bats Northwest volunteers and a couple interns for ongoing amphibian volunteer management and data documentation assistance.

REGION 5

GOAL 1: CONSERVE AND PROTECT NATIVE FISH AND WILDLIFE

Wildlife Management

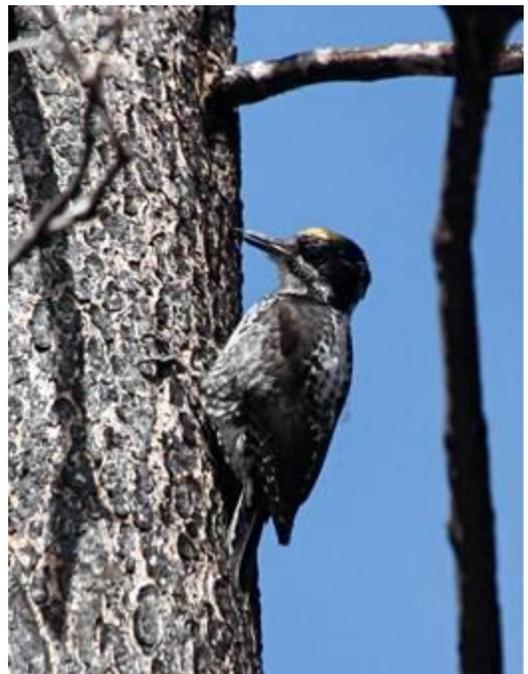
Resident Dark Geese Capture: WDFW Staff from Regions 5, 6, and Olympia teamed with Volunteers, Oregon Department of Fish and Wildlife (ODFW), and U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service (USFWS) to capture Resident Dark Geese at Miller Sands Island this week. The resident dark-colored geese are the progeny of an introduction of dusky Canada geese from several decades ago. The introduced duskies interbreed with resident western Canada geese and confound efforts to appropriately manage for the dusky Canada goose. Especially problematic are dark birds that are identified as dusky Canada geese during surveys and at goose hunting check stations. Marking the geese with leg bands and neck collars allows for management separation of the resident dark geese from Alaska-origin dusky geese. One-hundred-sixty-one geese were captured and leg-banded, with collars deployed on 77 resident dark geese. Thanks to all those who participated in the capture. Please see the video at <http://youtu.be/lyaeqSTdwmk> of the 2014 resident dark goose captures.

Watchable Wildlife – Cascade Creek Fire: Biologist Anderson reports an unusual number of American Three-toed woodpeckers being seen associated with the Cascade Fire on the southern slopes of Mt Adams in the Gifford Pinchot National Forest. This fire burned approximately 20,000 acres of high elevation forest in 2012. The American Three-toed woodpecker is considered uncommon, very localized, and generally found only in higher elevation subalpine forests. People rarely see this woodpecker due to its habitat preference and scattered population distribution. Its population status and distribution in Washington is not well known. This species is most commonly seen two to three years after large landscape fires that create a variety of decaying trees infested with insect larva and bark beetles. For those people interested in seeing this illusive woodpecker as well as its similar relative the Black-backed woodpecker, the subalpine southern slopes of Mt Adams appear to be exceptional in 2014.



*Female and Male
American Three-
Toed Woodpecker*

*(Photos by David
Irons)*



Western Pond Turtle Project: Eleven western pond turtles were released into two sites in the Columbia River Gorge this week. The turtles are part of the head start program, and have been in the care of the Oregon Zoo since they were captured as hatchlings last May. Biologists Anderson, McDonald, and George participated in the release. Six additional turtles will be released during an outreach event at the Bergen Road site in late July.

Western pond turtles release in the Columbia River Gorge



Wildlife Areas

Klickitat Wildlife Area Monitoring Grazing Permits:



Wildlife Area Manager Van Leuven and Technician Davis checked for compliance with terms of two grazing permits on the Fisher Hill Unit. On the west side of the Klickitat River there was almost no trace of grazing activity. On the east of the river use of the pastures was generally light. Van Leuven completed Grazing Evaluation forms and took photos for each of these units.

Fisher Hill Unit View West - typical residual grass height in many areas.

GOAL 2: PROVIDE SUSTAINABLE FISHING, HUNTING AND OTHER WILDLIFE-RELATED RECREATIONAL EXPERIENCES

Access

Grading: The roads and parking areas at Massey bar, I-5, and Sportsman loop West Access Sites were graded and graveled by WDFW road crew.

Bio Filters: The County requires signage of the bio filters installed around the new parking areas at Shillapoo North and Langsdorf Landing. Access Area Specialists Spangler and Rhodes signed, marked, and taped off the area so people will stay off and avoid killing the plantings and allow the vegetation to grow.



Bio Filters

GOAL 3: USE SOUND BUSINESS PRACTICES, DELIVER HIGH-QUALITY CUSTOMER SERVICE.

Wildlife Conflict

Wildlife Conflict: Conflict Specialist McDonald met with two Clark County farms experiencing heavy deer damage to apple trees, blueberry bushes, and a variety of vegetables. The farms have tried a variety of deterrence methods including mylar tape, bird bangers, and woven wire fencing barriers. Both farms were issued Critter Gitters and a motion detection sound scare device to test out before purchasing. One farm will also try using Plant Skydd, a liquid deterrent, on young apple trees and cost share fencing was discussed. Lethal removal of deer will be considered at a later date.



Right: Deer permanently damaged this apple tree



Left: Deer prefer ripe blueberries, leaving unripe berries or knocking them off of the branches.

Conflict Prevention: Conflict Specialist McDonald met with nine Klickitat County ranchers to sign new Damage Prevention Cooperative Agreements. The agreements are part of a pilot project in Klickitat County with the goal of providing ranchers proactive measures to reduce

wolf-livestock conflict. Klickitat County does not have any known resident wolves, but their future presence is anticipated. McDonald emphasized the importance of range riding activities including monitoring cattle behavior, maintaining a human presence when possible, and alerting WDFW immediately to potential wolf sign or depredations. This is the second year of the project and it has received positive reviews by the participants.

Elk Help: Conflict Specialist Conklin formed a core group of volunteers to routinely monitor and haze/herd elk from a commercial crop of peas, radish, and wheat fields in the Toledo area. The property owner is very excited to have the group assist him with deterring elk damage.

REGION 6

GOAL 1: CONSERVE AND PROTECT NATIVE FISH AND WILDLIFE

Wildlife Management

Western Snowy Plovers: Biologists Sundstrom, Michaelis, Hahn, and Doorly continued to monitor snowy plovers at Midway Beach, Leadbetter, and Graveyard Spit. Western snowy plovers are a federally threatened and state endangered shorebird that nests along Washington’s coastal beaches. The three locations where snowy plovers actively nest are Leadbetter Point, Midway Beach, and Graveyard Spit. A summary of monitoring efforts at each location is provided below.

Leadbetter - Biologists Hahn and Doorly focused their monitoring efforts on monitoring broods rather than searching for new nests. As part of that effort, they met with Willapa Refuge Biologist Ritchie to discuss a database overhaul and clarify brood searching techniques. The meeting was very successful, and resulted in many of the previously unknown broods becoming assigned to known nests. Hahn and Doorly worked on the database when not in the field in order to streamline and clarify the data collected thus far.

Three of the nests at Leadbetter hatched this week. Biologists Doorly and Hahn witnessed the hatching of one nest and believe the other nest hatched either over the previous weekend or very early in the week. Biologists also observed several of the broods that had already hatched. Of the 10 active nests reported last week, 3 hatched, 2 were abandoned and 5 are still active. Biologists Hahn and Doorly also detected one new nest this week. Of the 7 active broods reported last week, 1 fledged, 2 were never active broods (data was assessed and nest fates changed to unknown instead of hatched) and 4 are still active. This week 3 nests hatched so there are now currently 7 active broods at Leadbetter. Monitoring efforts at Leadbetter are summarized in the table below.

Leadbetter											
# Nests Found	# Nests Currently Active	# Nests Hatched	# Broods Found	# Chicks hatched	# Chicks currently Alive	# Fledglings	# Nests Failed				
							Pred	Sand Burial	Abandoned	Human Caused	Unknown Cause
23	6	11	11	30	11-13	8			3		3



Photo of a snowy plover nest after the eggs hatched. The only evidence that remained was a single eggshell fragment, which is common because after hatching, eggshell fragments either blow away or are quickly covered by shifting sand. Photo Credit: Stephanie Doorly

A key component of snowy plover recovery efforts during the 2014 season is the implementation of a comprehensive predator management plan that is focused on minimizing the predation of snowy plover chicks and eggs by crows and ravens. Crows and ravens are extremely intelligent hunters, which was evidenced at Leadbetter this week when Biologist Doorly observed crow tracks that were following snowy plover tracks (see photo). Most likely, the crow was following plover tracks because the crow knew they might be leading to a nest or chicks.



*Crow tracks following SNPL tracks:
Photo Credit: Stephanie Doorly*

Midway Beach - Biologists Michaelis and Sundstrom discovered three new snowy plover nests at Midway Beach this week. This brings the total nest count to 13. Biologists were also able to detect at least one brood with chicks that were between two and three weeks old. Biologists also observed a fledgling plover.

Western Pond Turtles: District 11 staff and volunteers monitored nesting female turtles and located 4 nests this week, including 2 second clutches for the season. One nest was discovered opportunistically and is thought to belong to a female seen out of the ponds in early June. This week's effort brings the total nests protected to 27.

District 11 biologist rechecked 4 turtles recovering from ulcerative shell disease at Cedar Creek Corrections. Two were fit enough to release, and two others remain for further care. One adult female turtle was transferred from PAWS to Cedar Creek, concurrently, to continue convalescence.

Oregon Spotted Frog: Volunteers marked plots at the Salmon Creek Oregon spotted frog oviposition site as part of ALEA restoration grant. These plots will be mowed end of August to create a low emergent situation spotted frogs prefer in Spring 2015.

Volunteer lead on the project, Bonnie Blessing and volunteer Chris Holcomb, marking plots in the sea of reed canary grass.



GOAL 2: PROVIDE SUSTAINABLE FISHING, HUNTING AND OTHER WILDLIFE-RELATED RECREATIONAL EXPERIENCES.

Wildlife Management

Black-tailed Deer Study - Satsop/Mason Deer Clusters: In 2009, WDFW initiated a study of the effects of forest management practices on black-tailed deer reproduction. Two of 8 study sites are represented in District 15: Mason and Satsop. The Mason cluster has 8 does and 1 yearling on air, while the Satsop cluster has 3 does and 2 yearlings still transmitting. An objective of this project is to collar fawns associated with the radio-collared does. Sixteen fawns were collared this season and two fawns were found dead prior to capture. Biologist Murphie reports that 4 mortalities and 2 slipped collars have occurred so far this year; 2 from apparent coyote predation, 1 from apparent cougar and 1 from apparent bear predation based on evidence found on scene. The slipped collars were due to a flawed collar design causing them to loosen too early.

Biologist Murphie reports 1 doe and fawn mortality occurred this week. Both were attributed to cougar predation based on evidence at the scene. Below, Figure 1 presents all the locations recorded for doe 303 (yellow points), her movements over the last 7 days (points connected by yellow lines), and her last reported observations following the predation event. The cluster of points to the east or right side is where the cougar predation occurred. The red square indicates where the cougar took the deer following the predation event, a distance of about 95 yards. One of doe 303's fawns was consumed within 30 yards from the red square. The second fawn was reported still alive as of 7 July. Murphie placed a trail camera on the kill, but was only able to capture one image of the cougar returning to the kill site (Figure 2). Other separation events were investigated this week, but all turned out to be false mortalities.



Figure 1. All of doe 303's locations since capture are presented; circles indicate day and stars indicate nighttime locations. The points connected by yellow lines represent her movements over the last 7 days. The red star is where she was found following the cougar predation event, while the cluster of points to the east-southeast and connected by the yellow line indicate where the predation event occurred.

Figure 2. A photo of cougar returning to the kill site of doe 303 in the Satsop cluster.



Black-tailed Deer Study - Capitol Forest Cluster: Biologist Michaelis conducted the last fawn search for the remaining collared doe in the Capitol Forest. Two fawns were discovered and they were not able to be captured due to their age and agility. The fawns were at least three weeks old.

Black-tailed Deer Study - Vail Cluster: District 11 staff, accompanied by researcher C. Rice, attempted to locate new born fawns from a radio collared doe in the Vail Tree Farm. Despite getting a good fix on the doe's location, the fawns could not be found. One collared doe remains and has yet to fawn. Two fawns were successfully collared in past weeks.

Resident Dark Geese Capture:

Biologist Murphie provided assistance to Region 5 Biologists Holman and Bergh in their efforts to capture, band and collar resident dark Canada geese at Miller Sands Island on the Columbia River this week. Murphie was the principal observer in the helicopter used to drive molting geese into the trap. A total of 161 geese were banded and 77 dark geese were collared.

Dark colored Canada geese being encouraged to enter the trap by a low flying helicopter.

